

# NEWS RELEASE

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## BLM TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING FOR SAGINAW HILL CLEANUP

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Tucson Field Office will host a public meeting on June 27, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Harriet Johnson Primary School, located at 6060 S. Joseph Ave., Tucson, to present the studies planned for the mining wastes at Saginaw Hill, and future cleanup of the area. Representatives from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona State Mine Inspector, Tucson Unified School District, and Pima County Health Department will also be available to answer questions.

The Saginaw Hill Site consists of two areas of potential contamination -- the abandoned Saginaw Mine and Palo Verde Mine. These areas are situated within a 540-acre parcel of land managed by the BLM located 10 miles southwest of Tucson. Mining activities occurred at the site from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s. The mine tailings, waste rock, and slag left over from mining and processing the ore present a concern for human health and the environment, primarily as a source of metal contamination from lead and arsenic.

The BLM is conducting site investigations to characterize the source, nature, and extent of contamination associated with abandoned mines. Information obtained by the site characterization will enable the BLM to evaluate clean up alternatives to minimize or eliminate the potential release of any contaminants that would present a risk to human health and the environment.

The BLM has fenced the areas of higher contamination and has administratively closed two ten-acres sites surrounding the waste piles to further ensure the public's safety. In addition, 27 mine shafts that presented physical hazards have been filled in.